

October 13, 1999

simple. It is the standard I intend to use while in Congress and throughout my career in public service. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and use its principles to guide their efforts in reforming education.

#### CONGRATULATING TAIWAN ON ITS NATIONAL DAY

**HON. LINDSEY O. GRAHAM**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 13, 1999*

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Taiwan on its National Day. I wish to extend my condolences to the people of Taiwan who have lost loved ones during Taiwan's most recent earthquakes, and I pray that Taiwan will soon return to normalcy. The Taiwanese government has been trying its very best to help all victims and their families with financial and psychological assistance whenever and wherever it is needed. I am pleased to learn that they have received so much international assistance from around the world as they begin to rebuild. The people of the United States have been so generous with their donations of time and materials in an effort to help Taiwan cope with the devastation of the quake.

The silver lining of this latest tragedy is that it proves Taiwan is not alone in the world. Taiwan has many friends here and around the world who stand willing and ready to help. We hope that Taiwan will have fully recovered in time to celebrate their next National Day.

**DR. AULAKH NAMED KHALISTAN MAN OF THE YEAR**

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 13, 1999*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to note that the annual convention of the Council of Khalistan named Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, as Khalistan Man of the Year.

Dr. Aulakh is well known to us here on Capitol Hill. He has been a tireless advocate for freedom for the Sikhs. He has consistently worked to expose the brutal human-rights violations committed against the Sikhs by the Indian government. He has worked with us here in Congress to preserve the true history of the Sikhs which the Indian government is trying to alter.

Dr. Aulakh has also worked for the rights of Sikhs in this country. He provided information to support asylum requests. He has supported Charan Singh Kalsi, the Sikhs who was fired by the New York Transit Authority because he refused to remove his turban for a hard hat. He is actively working to get the authorities in Mentor, OH, outside Cleveland, to drop concealed weapons charges against Gurbachan Singh Bhatia for carrying his kirpan, a ceremonial sword required by the Sikh religion.

For all of these reasons and more, Dr. Aulakh deserves the support of all Sikhs and

#### EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

richly deserves the title of Khalistan Man of the Year.

I submit the resolution designating Dr. Aulakh Khalistan Man of the Year into the RECORD for the information of my colleagues.

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING DR. AULAKH KHALISTAN'S MAN OF THE YEAR FOR 1999

PASSED AT THE CONVENTION OF THE COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN, OCTOBER 9-10, 1999, RICHMOND HILL, NY

Whereas the struggle for a free Khalistan is the most important issue facing the Sikh Nation;

Whereas Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh and the Council of Khalistan have been working tirelessly for this goal for eleven years;

Whereas Dr. Aulakh has been very successful in internationalizing the Sikh freedom struggle, in bringing the genocide against the Sikhs and other minorities to the attention of Congress and the media, in giving speeches, raising funds, and otherwise creating a political and social climate that brings Sikh freedom closer to fulfillment;

Therefore be it resolved by the delegates of this convention:

That Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, is hereby designated as Khalistan's Man of the Year for 1999.

#### WORLD SHOULD SUPPORT SIKH FREEDOM

**HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 13, 1999*

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, when I picked up my Washington Times on October 7, I was pleased to see a letter from Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, whom many of us know well.

Dr. Aulakh, who is the President of the Council of Khalistan, wrote about the Sikh independence struggle. He noted that Sikhs are "culturally, religiously, and linguistically distinct from Hindu India" and that they ruled Punjab independently for many years before the British conquered the subcontinent.

Dr. Aulakh's letter asked why India, which prides itself on being democratic, doesn't hold a plebiscite in Punjab, Khalistan on the question of independence. That is the democratic way to do things. But India appears to care more about achieving hegemony in South Asia than it does about the democratic principles it proclaims.

It is interesting that this letter ran on the 12th anniversary of the day the Sikh nation declared the independence of the Sikh homeland, Punjab, naming their new country Khalistan.

The recent elections in India underline the instability of India's multiethnic state. India has 18 official languages and Christians, Sikhs, Muslims, and others suffer from religious persecution. Many experts predict that India will soon break up.

America and the world should support the freedom movements in Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, Assam, and the other nations seeking their freedom from India. We should cut American aid to India until it learns to respect human rights and we should work for an inter-

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nationally-supervised plebiscite in Punjab, Khalistan, in Kashmir, in Nagaland, and in all the other areas seeking independence, on the question of their future political status.

Mr. Speaker, I insert Dr. Aulakh's letter into the RECORD. I hope that my colleagues will read it.

[From the Washington Times, Oct. 7, 1999]

SIKH INDEPENDENCE DESERVES INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

(By Gurmit Singh Aulakh)

We appreciate Arnold Beichman's mention of the Sikh struggle for an independent Khalistan ("Crossing the mini-state frontier," Commentary, Sept. 23). Sikhs are culturally, linguistically and religiously distinct from Hindu India, and we have a history of self-rule in Punjab. Sikhs are a separate nation.

Sikhs drove foreign invaders out of the subcontinent in the 18th century. Banda Singh Bahadar established Khalsa rule in Punjab in 1710. The Sikh rule lasted until 1716. Sikh rule was re-established in 1765, lasting until the British conquest of 1849. Sikh rule extended to Kabul and was considered one of the powers in South Asia. Since then, the Sikh nation has been struggling to regain its sovereignty.

No Sikh has ever signed the Indian constitution. On Oct. 7, 1987, the Sikh nation declared its independence, forming the separate nation of Khalistan. Our effort to liberate Khalistan is peaceful, democratic and nonviolent, but our declaration of independence is irrevocable and nonnegotiable.

India claims that the struggle for independence is over. If that is the case, why doesn't "the world's largest democracy" hold a plebiscite in Punjab to decide the question of independence the democratic way?

India is not one country. It is an empire of many countries that was thrown together by the British for their administrative convenience. Like the former Soviet Union, it is destined to fall apart.

In the June 17, 1994, issue of Strategic Investment, Jack Wheeler of the Freedom Research Foundation predicted that within 10 years, India "will cease to exist as we know [it]." Stanley Wolpert, a professor at the University of California in Los Angeles who wrote a biography on the late Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, predicted on CNN that both India and Pakistan will soon break up.

Sikhs oppose tyranny wherever it rears its head. Consequently, we support freedom for the people of Kashmir, Nagaland and other countries seeking their freedom.

The world helped East Timor achieve its freedom. The world helped Kosovo achieve its freedom. It is time for the free nations of the world to cut off aid to India and support an internationally supervised plebiscite to help the people of Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland and all nations of South Asia to achieve their freedom.

#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily